IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the Summary of Invention section on page 5, line 2 through page 6, line 1 with the following amended section:

-- The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation and has as its object to provide an image processing apparatus/method capable of detecting an object (e.g., an object of a predetermined size or an object within a predetermined distance range from a predetermined object) desired by a user from input image data.

To achieve the above object, according to one preferred embodiment of the present invention, an image processing apparatus/method is characterized by ~~inputting image data, detecting an object in the input image data, measuring the distance from the detected object to a predetermined position, and detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the measurement result.~~inputting image data; receiving information of a size of an object or a distance to the object, for detecting a desired object from an external apparatus, via a communication interface; detecting that the desired object exists in a predetermined range, on the basis of the information received in the receiving step from the image data; and transmitting information corresponding to a detection result of the detection unit to the external apparatus via the communication interface in a case that the detection step detects that the desired object exists in the predetermined range.

According to another preferred embodiment, there is provided [[an]] a ~~image processing~~ terminal apparatus/method characterized by ~~inputting image data by image pickup means having an optical system, detecting an object in the input image data, controlling the~~

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~~optical system of the image pickup means, and detecting a predetermined object on the basis of~~ ~~the object detection result and the optical system control result.~~ <u>inputting image data; receiving</u>

<u>information of a size of an object or a distance to the object, for detecting a desired object, from</u>

<u>an external apparatus via a communication interface; detecting that the desired object exists in a</u>

<u>predetermined range, on the basis of the information received in the receiving step from the</u>

<u>image data; and transmitting information corresponding to a detection result of the detecting step</u>

<u>to another external apparatus via said communication interface, in a case that the detecting step</u>

<u>detects that the desired object exists in the predetermined range.</u>

Other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent

from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.--